



**CAMBRIDGESHIRE  
& PETERBOROUGH**  
COMBINED AUTHORITY

## **CAMBRIDGESHIRE & PETERBOROUGH COMBINED AUTHORITY – OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

### **DRAFT MINUTES**

**Date: 26<sup>th</sup> June 2017**

**Time: 2pm**

**Present:**

Cllr Robin Carter	Huntingdon District Council
Cllr Terry Hayward	Huntingdon District Council
Cllr Mike Bradley	East Cambs District Council
Cllr Alan Sharp	East Cambs District Council
Cllr Alex Riley	South Cambs District Council
Cllr John Batchelor	South Cambs District Council
Cllr Fred Yeulett	Fenland District Council
Cllr David Mason	Fenland District Council
Cllr Dave Baigent	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Rod Cantrill	Cambridge City Council
Cllr Peter Hudson	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr Lucy Nethsingha	Cambridgeshire County Council
Cllr David Over	Peterborough City Council
Cllr Ed Murphy	Peterborough City Council

**Officers present –** Kim Sawyer      Monitoring Officer  
                                 Anne Gardiner      Scrutiny Officer

#### **1. Apologies**

- 1.1 Apologies were received from Cllr Mark Buckton, substituted by Cllr David Mason.

## **2. Declaration of Interests**

2.1 There were no declarations of interest.

## **3. Appointment of Chair & Vice Chair**

3.1 Cllr Batchelor was nominated by Cllr Cantrill for the position of Chair, seconded by Cllr Hayward.

3.2 Cllr Baigent nominated himself but no seconder came forward.

3.3 It was resolved that Cllr Batchelor should be appointed Chair of the Committee for the municipal year 2017/18.

3.4 Cllr Hayward was nominated by Cllr Carter for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Yeulett.

3.5 Cllr Baigent nominated himself for the position of Vice Chair, seconded by Cllr Murphy.

3.6 With 8 votes for Cllr Hayward and 4 votes for Cllr Baigent, the Committee resolved to appoint Cllr Hayward to the position of Vice Chair for the municipal year 2017/18.

## **4. Minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 11<sup>th</sup> April 2017.**

4.1 Cllr Hayward advised that although the minutes showed his attendance, he was not present at the April meeting.

4.2 The Committee agreed the minutes, subject to the attendance being amended to show Councillor Haywood was not at the meeting.

## **5. Interview – Mayor of Combined Authority**

5.1 The Chair congratulated the Mayor on his successful election and asked him to give a brief introduction to the committee.

5.2 The Mayor made the following points:-

- The Mayor stated he was delighted to have been elected to this position.
- The main area that the Mayor had campaigned on was improved infrastructure and his 100 day plan that had been published reflected this campaign promise.
- The Mayor admitted it was an ambitious plan but did not feel that it was daunting.
- Housing and the cost of living were areas of real importance for the county and in the past infrastructure had been supplied after the housing development and the mayor felt this was wrong – the focus needed to be on infrastructure and housing working together.

5.3 The Chair then asked Committee members to ask the Mayor any questions they had.

5.4 The following responses were given by the Mayor:

**Housing and Infrastructure**

- 1) In response to a question regarding where future housing developments were going to go and whether in light of recent events all new builds would be fitted with sprinklers the Mayor responded that he could not comment on what safety aspects would be put into new housing but they would be of a high quality.
- 2) The new housing sites would be working within the parameters of the local plan but any new development would not be located if there were no transport links. Improvement in transport links was key and should be done concurrently with the housing schemes.
- 3) Maximising affordable housing was a priority and ensuring the build value went back into the economy rather than benefiting landowners. The Mayor was keen to accelerate a land cap on agricultural land.
- 4) In response to a question about the proposed Wisbech Garden Town the Mayor advised that some work had been done and that there were proposals for 12,000 new homes in Wisbech.
- 5) Improving the rail link in Wisbech was key and it must be joined up with existing lines. In the past Wisbech had lacked investment but had great potential to draw investors.
- 6) In response to questions regarding the type of housing, tenures and ownership of the new housing schemes the Mayor stated that there would not be a one size fits all and that he would be looking to consider every possible way to bring housing forward but would not be relying exclusively on the market or one particular sector. The Mayor advised he would be working alongside local district councils to ensure joined up working on the Local Plan.
- 7) In response to a concern raised about the funding for housing being pushed back by central government the Mayor stated that he had no concerns and felt that the Government was firmly behind this devolution deal.
- 8) In response to a question on the M11/A47 feasibility study the Mayor advised that he felt this was incredibly important for opening up the heart of Cambridge and linking Cambridge to Peterborough which will be the purpose of the feasibility study.
- 9) Feasibility study for light rail: The study would look at this and other options. A further report would come to the Board in July. The study would be completed by December/January. The Combined Authority

would be a working partner with City Deal (not dominant partner), they can work together to deliver a transport solution for whole of Cambridgeshire & Peterborough.

- 10) The Mayor had attended a meeting regarding the London, Stanstead, and Cambridge Corridor and had lent his support to the building of a second runway at Stanstead Airport.
- 11) In response to a question about whether the 100 day plan had been costed the Mayor advised that the schemes in the plan would not be paid for by the £600m but it was important for the Mayor to put forward these business plans and have them in place so that he could put them to the market to attract potential investors which had already started happening.
- 12) The Mayor advised that the 100 day plan was just the start for getting important business cases put forward to secure funding.
- 13) In response to a question about why the A1 and further network rail developments were not included in the 100 day plan the Mayor advised that the schemes put forward were focused on bringing forward new housing but these issues would be included on future plans.
- 14) Members advised the Mayor that the next statement regarding the A1 from Highways England would be due soon and that the A1 should be included in the next 100 day plan.
- 15) In response to a question regarding Whittlesey station the Mayor advised that improvements to the Ely North Junction were vital in getting further works done along the line.
- 16) In response to a question about the Bus Bill the Mayor stated that the current bus system around the county did not provide a good service; a review was needed to see what needed to be done – there were examples of good working practices from other cities that could be drawn upon.

### **Skills**

- 17) In response to a question about apprenticeships the Mayor said that in the past they had failed young people by allowing apprenticeships to slip. There would be more investments for apprenticeships.
- 18) Although education was not part of the remit of the devolution deals the Mayor stated that he hoped to have regular meetings with the head teachers and build up relationships with local schools during the work on apprenticeships.
- 19) In response to a question on the Peterborough University the Mayor advised that the positive effect that a university may have would not

just be on potential local students but also on the local economy; it would improve the nighttime economy in Peterborough. It needed to have a solid business case to secure the funding to underwrite the university costs.

- 20) The Mayor advised that it might be that the university could specialize in certain educational fields or qualifications but it was important not to repeat what other universities already offered.
- 21) Working with the Anglian Ruskin University was important but there was a need for the Peterborough University to be independent.

### **Priorities and 100 Day Plan**

- 22) There would be a regular review of the business cases and further 100 day plans, and this was an area that the Mayor felt the Committee could play an important role by providing an overview function. The Mayor advised that the Combined Authority had already received £40m and that this money could be used to borrow against.
- 23) In response to a question about the risk of using a lot of the money on feasibility studies the Mayor advised that he had tried to set out a plan that would make the county a fairer place to live and a more attractive place for businesses to invest. He had no plans currently to raise tax but if the remit of the authority was to change to include Health or Adult Social Care then this would need to be reconsidered.
- 24) In response to a question regarding deprivation the Mayor stated that he had witnessed over the years schemes that had tried to solve this problem of deprivation but had only looked at the short term gains; it was important to invest in the right schemes from the start that could have the biggest long term effect on deprivation – there was enough wealth in this county that there should not be any deprivation.
- 25) In response to a question regarding potential hidden costs to the constituent councils to support the Combined Authority the Mayor advised that staff from the constituent councils would be utilized to ensure the best deals for the county were achieved by using their existing experience; the Combined Authority was a huge opportunity to get funding into the districts.
- 26) The Combined Authority itself would not be large and would not employ more than twenty staff.
- 27) It was suggested that the Mayor should consider producing a four year plan that would outline his goals for his term in office.

### **Role of Scrutiny**

- 28) In response to a question regarding what expectations the Mayor had in regards to the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee the Mayor advised that he hoped the Committee would act as a driving

force to challenge the Mayor to do more; to act as a sounding board for further schemes and he felt that there was a huge opportunity for the Committee to be a key driver for this authority. Overview was vital to development of Combined Authority

5.6 The Committee thanked the Mayor for answering their questions and the Mayor left the meeting.

5.7 The Committee had a short discussion following the Mayor's interview and the following points were raised:

- 1) There were a lot of schemes being planned with limited staff available.
- 2) There was a need for a delivery plan that was focused and costed – it was too easy for these schemes to spend money on numerous consultants.
- 3) Concerns were raised regarding the staffing and it was suggested that once the Chief Executive had been appointed that it would be advisable to invite him to attend a meeting of the Committee.
- 4) Cllr Nethsingha raised the concern that there could be duplication of work being done on projects being undertaken by the City Deal, the Combined Authority and the County Council.
- 5) Members were keen to establish what plans there were for public sector reform.
- 6) The Committee should consider the strategies being put forward.

## **6. Combined Authority Agenda**

6.1 The Committee considered the agenda that had been published for the upcoming Combined Authority Board meeting on 28 June and were asked to comment on any issues they felt should be raised by the Committee.

6.2 Cllr Cantrill raised a point regarding the re-profiling of funds and that this undermined the authority's plans and would frustrate the delivery of the plans.

6.3 Cllr Murphy suggested that the schemes should identify the lead officer and should include a completion date.

6.4 The Committee noted the agenda of the Combined Authority Board meeting on 28 June

## **7. Combined Authority Forward Plan**

7.1 The Committee considered the forward plan for the Combined Authority but had no comments to make at this time.

The Committee noted the current forward plan of the Combined Authority Board.

## **8. Overview and Scrutiny Work Programme**

- 8.1 The Committee received the work programme and were asked to comment or make any amendments.
- 8.2 The Committee agreed that the work programme particularly the timetable for inviting Portfolio Holders to future meetings should be amended as follows:
- (a) the Portfolio Holder for Transport should be invited to the July meeting as it was felt this was an important issue for the Committee to consider as soon as possible. The members asked for the transport plan to be circulated with the papers for the July meeting.
  - (b) the Portfolio Holder for Strategic Planning should be invited to the September meeting and the Portfolio Holder for Fiscal Planning should be invited to the November meeting.
  - (c) the Mayor should be invited quarterly to attend the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings with the next invitation to be in six months.
- 8.3 With the permission of the Chair, Cllr Baigent raised a question regarding public questions and petitions being allowed at the Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. The Monitoring Officer advised that a note regarding the legal position on public questions and petitions being held at future meetings would be provided to committee members.

## **9. Date and Location of Next Meeting**

- 9.1 The next meeting would be held at Peterborough City Council on 24<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The meeting closed at 15:47pm.